

NEW YORK HERALD

BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT, PROPRIETOR.

Volume XXXIX. No. 3

AMUSEMENTS THIS AFTERNOON AND EVENING

WALLACK'S THEATRE. Broadway and Third Street. A MAN OF HONOR. 8 P. M. closes at 10:30 P. M. Mr. Lester Wallack, Miss Annie Deland. Matinee at 1:30 P. M.

BOOTH'S THEATRE. Sixth Avenue and Twenty-third Street. KIT OR THE ARKANSAS TRAVELLER. 8 P. M. closes at 10:30 P. M. Mr. F. S. Chanfrau, Miss Della Pateman. Matinee.

OLYMPIC THEATRE. Broadway between Houston and Bleeker Streets. FAMILY JARS. 8 P. M. closes at 10:30 P. M. Mr. J. M. Maillou-Raynor Family. Matinee at 1:30 P. M.

BROOKLYN PARK THEATRE. Opposite City Hall, Brooklyn. THE ROBBERS. 8 P. M. closes at 10:30 P. M. Mr. Edwin Adams, Miss Emily Gobour.

BOWERY THEATRE. Bowery. MISCHIEF MAKING. 7:45 P. M., MOTHER GOOSE. 8:20 P. M. closes at 11:15 P. M. Mr. Hermander Foster, Miss Polly Booth. Matinee at 2 P. M.

METROPOLITAN THEATRE. 855 Broadway. VARIETY ENTERTAINMENT. 7:45 P. M. closes at 10:30 P. M. Matinee at 2:30 P. M.

NIBLO'S GARDEN. Broadway between Prince and Houston Streets. CHILDREN IN THE WOOD. Opens at 5 P. M. closes at 10:45 P. M. Vokes Family. Matinee at 1:30 P. M.

WOODS MUSEUM. Broadway, corner Third Street. OLIVER TWIST. 8 P. M. closes at 11 P. M. Mr. L. Davenport, Mrs. E. L. Davenport. Matinee at 2 P. M.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE. Eighth Avenue and Twenty-third Street. HUMPTY DUMPTY ABROAD. 7:45 P. M. closes at 10:45 P. M. Mr. G. L. Fox. Matinee at 2:30 P. M.

FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE. Twenty-eighth Street and Broadway. PARADE. 8:30 P. M. closes at 11 P. M. Mr. J. M. Maillou-Raynor Family. Matinee at 1:30 P. M.

GERMANIA THEATRE. Fourteenth Street, near Irving Place. LES GEORGIENNES. 8 P. M. closes at 10:30 P. M. Mr. Merion, Mrs. Rind.

MRS. CONWAY'S BROOKLYN THEATRE. Washington Street. THE TICKET WORLD. 8 P. M. closes at 10:30 P. M. Mr. Frank Roche, Mrs. F. B. Conway. Matinee at 2 P. M.

STRAIN HALL. Fourteenth Street, near Fourth Avenue. THEODORE THOMAS' CONCERT. 8 P. M.

SEVENTH AVENUE THEATRE. Seventh Avenue, near Sixth Avenue. GILMORE'S CONCERTS. 8 P. M. closes at 10:30 P. M.

TERRACE GARDEN THEATRE. Fifty-ninth Street, near Third Avenue. BARBE BLEUE. 8 P. M. closes at 10:45 P. M. Matinee at 2 P. M.

TONY PASTORS OPERA HOUSE. No. 20 Bowery. MAGICAL ENTERTAINMENT. 8 P. M. closes at 11 P. M. Matinee at 2 P. M.

BRYANT'S OPERA HOUSE. Twenty-third Street, corner of Fifth Avenue. CINDERELLA IN BLACK. NEGRO MINSTRELS, &c. 8 P. M. closes at 10 P. M. Matinee at 2 P. M.

THE RINK. Third Avenue and Sixty-fourth Street. MENAGERIE. 8 P. M. closes at 11 P. M. Mr. J. M. Maillou-Raynor Family. Matinee at 2 P. M.

ROBINSON HALL. Sixteenth Street. MAGICAL ENTERTAINMENT AND LAUGHING GAS. 8 P. M. closes at 10:30 P. M.

RAIN HALL. Great Jones Street, corner of 13th Place. THE PILGRIM. 8 P. M. closes at 10:30 P. M.

DR. KAHN'S MUSEUM. No. 68 Broadway. SCIENCE AND ART.

THE NEWS OF YESTERDAY.

To-Day's Contents of the Herald.

VIRGINIA! GOVERNOR KEMPER'S MESSAGE! THE CONDITION AND NEEDS OF THE SOUTH.—LEADER.—FOURTH PAGE.

WISE LIBERALISM THE KEYNOTE OF THE 'NEW DEPARTURE' IN VIRGINIA! THE SENATORIAL CONTEST! YOUNG VIRGINIA'S PREFERENCES POLITICALLY.—SIXTH PAGE.

THE HAVANA MONEY MARKET MORE EMBARRASSED AND THE PRICES OF PRIME NECESSARIES RAPIDLY ADVANCING! GOLD PAYMENTS FORCED BY EMPLOYEES.—FIFTH PAGE.

MISTAKEN IDENTITY THE GROUND FOR THE DAMAGING STATEMENTS AGAINST CAPTAIN SURMONT! THE CAPTAIN OF THE LOCH EARL EXONERATED.—FIFTH PAGE.

CORTINA INSTALLED AS MAYOR OF MATAMORAS, MEXICO! A STREET BROWL, IN WHICH ONE MAN IS KILLED AND MANY WOUNDED.—FIFTH PAGE.

WHO STOLE THE POCKETBOOK? MISS ADA DYAS, THE ACTRESS, HAS HER PORTFOLIO SNATCHED AWAY! A HOT CHASE FOR THE THIEF! FIVE PERSONS ARRESTED, ONE HELD.—EIGHTH PAGE.

THE CONGREGATIONALISTS' CONTROVERSY CONCLUDED! REPLY OF PLYMOUTH CHURCH! MR. BECKER EXPLAINS THE CASE AND THE STAND TAKEN BY THE CHURCH.—SIXTH PAGE.

WAR SHIPS AT THIS STATION—ROBBED AND ROASTED—ANOTHER LEASE OF LIFE FOR A MURDERER—A CITIZEN CLUBBED.—SIXTH PAGE.

BUCHU AND THE UNITED STATES SUPREME BENCH—THE MUNICIPAL BOARDS—THE SHARKET CAPTURE GAINED.—SIXTH PAGE.

BREAKING UP OF THE GREAT RAILROAD STRIKE! RESISTANCE STILL MADE AT SOME POINTS! CHEAPENING OF PASSENGER FARES.—FIFTH PAGE.

GLOWING TRIBUTES FROM THE CLERGY OF THE HUD TO THE SAGE OF CONCORD—MORMONISM EXPOSED BY ANOTHER VICTIM.—EIGHTH PAGE.

GOLDEN OIL Poured INTO THE TROUBLED WATERS OF WALL STREET! DIVIDENDS AND DEFAULTS! FEATURES OF BUSINESS YESTERDAY—HOMICIDE.—SEVENTH PAGE.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS YESTERDAY—LINCOLN'S LEGITIMACY ESTABLISHED.—THIRD PAGE.

THE GENEVA AWARD AND ITS DISTRIBUTION.—Various schemes are before Congress for the distribution among the rightful claimants of the Geneva award of \$15,000,000 paid over into the national Treasury from England on account of those aforesaid Alabama claims. The parties directly interested in this indemnity money would do well to keep a sharp eye upon Congress, or this award may go the way of that of five millions paid over from France some forty years ago on account of French spoliation on our commerce prior to the year 1800—that is to say, the immediate claimants may all die before they or any of them get a penny of this Geneva award.

THE PLYMOUTH CHURCH WAR with the other Congregational churches of Brooklyn is brought to a close for the present by a sharp letter from the brethren who look up to Mr. Becker as their Pope. It will be found elsewhere, and will give the impression that the mainly people of the City of Churches are just taking the buttons off their foils. Peace, brethren! Your little manuals were never made to knock each other on the sconces against.

Virginia—Governor Kemper's Message—The Condition and Needs of the South.

The Message of Governor Kemper to the Legislature of Virginia on the assembling of that body and inauguration of the new State government the 1st of January is worthy of particular attention. While it refers necessarily and especially to the condition of Virginia the views expressed are applicable, for the most part, to the whole South. It involves, consequently, questions of national importance.

Our readers generally will remember the vigorous contest in the State which resulted in the election of James L. Kemper and the principles involved in that issue chiefly. The contest was not so much between democracy and republicanism, in the old party sense of these terms, as between conservatism and radicalism; between negro supremacy and government by the superior intelligence of the whites for the good of all. That was the real question at issue. The administration at Washington, in accordance with the policy of the radicals since the war closed, supported to the utmost of its power Mr. Hughes, the candidate of the negroes and ultra radical faction. Hughes got 93,499 votes and Kemper 130,738—a majority of 27,229 votes. It was a conservative success, much the same as that of the preceding Governor, Walker, and not, as was said, a success strictly of the democratic party as old party issues were understood, though most of those who had been democrats beforehand naturally voted for Kemper. Party lines had been broken, to a great extent, by the war and its consequences; for even Hughes, the radical candidate, had been one of the strictest State rights and Southern rights democrats. In proof of these views we quote the language of Governor Kemper in his inaugural Message.

Speaking of political party relations, he says:—"Virginia, recognizing no such obligations as bind her to any national party organization, maintaining her fidelity to all who are and who shall become allied in the defence of measures calculated to secure the speedy establishment of reconciliation and the return of complete normal relations between the people of the State on one hand, and the people of all the States and government of the United States on the other, is ready to co-operate cordially with men of whatever party in upholding these measures, supporting those who support them and opposing all opposition to them." Further, he calls upon the Assembly to reaffirm the conservative platform, "judging the head of the federal government impartially by his official actions, and co-operating in every measure of his administration which may be beneficial in design and calculated to promote the welfare of the people and sentiments of good will throughout the Union." These words of good sense and patriotism show that the Governor is not bound by party ties, and that he looks only to the welfare of Virginia and the South.

In harmony with these views, and as confirmatory evidence of the sincerity of the Governor and conservatives he represents, he speaks in the kindest and most conciliatory manner of the negroes. Of the equal rights of the black and white races he says:—"So encouraging and decisive has been the progress of the last four years, so clearly developed by the past are the obligations of to-day, that, if we are guided by prudence, if we go forward with courage, tempered with forbearance, and if no federal legislation shall intervene to disturb the relations between the races, we cannot fail to bring our great experiment to a successful and prosperous issue." He refers to the uniform system of free schools for educating both races, and challenges comparison with any similar scheme elsewhere. Events prove, he remarks, how futile and disastrous to its authors must be any future attempt to array the colored race as a political combination upon any principle of antagonism between the races. He refers to the meddlesome and mischievous carpet-baggers a rap by saying that, whatever their claim to eminence, ability or philanthropy, they cannot understand the character and circumstances of the colored population or wisely administer to their wants. The Southerners, he properly asserts, are best qualified to perform the task assigned by Providence with regard to the colored people. He adds that, if not restrained or thwarted by superior power—that is, by the federal government—the Virginians will perform their duty, resolutely and effectually, in promoting the best interests of both races and by scrupulously guarding the newly acquired rights of the colored man.

There are matters adverted to in these remarks, though not dwelt upon at any length or very pointedly, that are really full of meaning. Twice the Governor remarks that justice will be done to the negroes, and Virginia will be both progressive and conservative, if not thwarted by the federal government. "Not thwarted by superior power" is the expression. That is, if the party in power and the administration will cease meddling with the affairs of the Southern States for political ends, as they have meddled all along since the conclusion of the war. In other words, the white people of the South, if let alone, will honestly carry out the laws placing the negroes on an equality politically with themselves, and will both conciliate and educate the colored people so that the two races may live in harmony and march together in the way of improvement. The great evil that has afflicted the South were the persistent efforts of the radicals and their carpet-bag emissaries in that section to array the blacks against the whites in order to maintain political control over the Southern States through the colored votes. This infamous and ruinous policy had its effect for a time. We have seen it in part in the fearful corruption and crushing debts of those States. Had it not been for the good sense, conservatism and moderation of the whites, more serious consequences might have followed in a conflict between the two races. Something is due also to the good behavior of the blacks and their latent affection for their old masters. The widespread organizations of secret clubs, in affiliation with one another, among the negroes, was very threatening at one time. Happily the colored people are learning to estimate the radical frebrands and plunderers at their true value. Though they still adhere to the radical party for the most part many of the most intelligent begin to see that their interests are identical with their white fellow citizens of the South. Governor

Kemper shows that he understands this when he says, "recent events" (that is the late elections in the South) "prove how futile and how disastrous to its authors must be any future attempt to array the colored race as a political combination upon any principle of antagonism between the races." This admirable and statesmanlike view of affairs on the part of the Governor of the grand old State, and still leading State, of the South will inspire hope in every lover of his country.

Then, in the declaration of Governor Kemper that Virginia will not be chained to the car of any party, but will give its support to those who are intent on promoting peace, harmony and equal rights between the North and South, we see the dawn of better days coming. There can be no doubt that the Southern people generally will respond to this declaration, for the radical party has wronged and deceived them, and their old democratic allies have neither been able to help them nor to offer them a platform on which to stand. The South needs friends, and it will support those who prove themselves to be such. As we have intimated before in our editorial columns, this state of things indicates a change in the political affairs of the country. The South, if we mistake not, is on the eve of taking pretty solidly an independent course, and will, probably, unite with the grangers and free traders of the West. The South and West have interests in common, springing from their agricultural pursuits, and they are not likely to continue much longer the hewers of wood and drawers of water for the radical protectionists of New England. The time is not distant when political issues must turn upon the material interests of these vast sections of our common country.

While commending the views and temper of Governor Kemper's message in the matters referred to above, we cannot approve of the policy he advocates for the federal government to assume the debt of his State. Admitting that Virginia is in a peculiar and exceptional condition as regards its debt, in consequence of the division of the State by the federal government, it would be better that a relative proportion of the debt which East and West Virginia should bear should be determined by some means and be paid by these States. If the government at Washington should open the door to such a claim all the States might demand that their debts be assumed in like manner. This would swell the national debt enormously, and would lead to that very consolidation which the Southerners have always resisted. It would be a dangerous innovation. Let the several States work out their own redemption. Let them depend upon their own energies. Arbitration might settle the difficulty between East and West Virginia. The claim the Governor makes for more currency in proportion to the population and needs of the State is reasonable enough. The South has not had its due proportion. This could be granted without increasing the volume of currency in circulation, and by a more equitable distribution. The message, as far as it relates to political matters, to the conservatism and disposition of the Virginians and to the negroes, is worthy of all commendation.

A Happy New Year—The Reign of Crime.

It is melancholy to note the long list of crimes which usher in the new year. Scarcely had the chimes of the merry bells announced that another year was born when the young nursing received a bloody baptism. The dangerous classes seem to have run riot, and on the slightest provocation, or with none at all, the ready knife sought its victims. In all the long list of stabbings and cuttings there is not one where the shadow of a justification can be shown. In every case the knife was the agent of a cowardly and unmanly vengeance. There seems to be only one effective way of putting an end to these murderous outrages which are becoming alarmingly frequent, and that is the infliction of condign punishment. Even in self-defence the use of deadly weapons ought not to be condoned, except where extreme danger to life can be clearly pleaded in extenuation. The application of the law on this subject has been altogether too lax, and there has gone abroad among the class of roughs an idea that being worsted in fistfights is sufficient justification in the eye of the law for the commission of murder. It is only by dealing with the utmost severity with all men proved to have used or attempted to use murderous weapons that life can be rendered safe in our city. It is a matter deserving the serious attention of our courts.

THE COMANCHE INDIANS are at their old work of raiding on the Texan stock raisers and farmers, with the usual bloody results. A Washington despatch reports the particulars of a raid in which some thirty white men were killed and a large quantity of stock "run off." The attacking band numbered only forty Indians, but as they fell on the settlers in detail the number they managed to kill will not appear startling. When pursued by the troops from Fort Clark the cowardly outcasts ran for their lives, and unhappily succeeded in carrying some of them away. With such Indians there should be but one policy—namely, extermination. These Comanche Indians range the banks of the Rio Grande and make themselves at home on both sides of the river. The greatest vigilance should prevail on the part of the army authorities to give our citizens in Texas something like protection. The entire lack of co-operation on the part of the Mexican government prevents the complete caging of these predatory tribes, but raiding Indians should find graves awaiting them when they cross the Rio Grande to rob and murder on the soil of the United States. Mexico is making some fuss about reforming her social abuses. It is about time that she should attend to her duties to her neighbor.

THE PITTSBURGH ENGINEERS' STRIKE has ended in the submission of the men. A great deal of inconvenience was suffered by the public, a good deal of money was lost to the companies and some wages lost to the men during the few days that the foolish strike lasted. It must be called foolish, because its sudden collapse shows how faint its prospect of success must have been at any time. As a body of men who must be possessed of some sense the engineers will now see the futility of attempting to fight a downward tendency of wages when the concerns they worked for were suffering from the effects of the panic. The companies appear to have so far succeeded in breaking the blockade, by procuring outside

help, that the strikers find themselves in danger of being permanently shut out if they do not hasten to submit to the ten per cent reduction. The failure of this strike will, probably, deter the engineers on the main line of the Pennsylvania Railroad from attempting to resist a similar reduction now being made on their wages.

The Amenities of Independent Criticism.

If newspapers quietly submitted to the pretensions which theatrical managers of a certain showman type are ever ready to advance the public would be treated to pretty dishes under the name of criticism. Indeed, criticism would completely disappear. Now, it is not at all difficult to demonstrate that a journal which gives itself over to base puffery of theatrical concerns must lose all caste in the domain of aesthetics. While a single independent journal existed the fraud upon the public would be easy of detection, and hence the value of praise where blame alone was due would become small indeed. The theatre which makes a trade of overpuffery will find, in the end, that the public is not to be perpetually blinded to shortcomings by cheaply bought laudation. The audience which pays to see comedy acted is an intelligent audience, and the management which, by resort to showmanship, endeavors to persuade the public that a wooden nutmeg comedy or hickory ham tragedy is the real Goldsmithian or Shakespearian article will find that a solitary case of deception is more injurious to a theatre than a series of failures. Failures come to the best regulated houses, and, however stern may be the critical condemnation, there is, with the honest journalist, no prejudice against a management on that account. Plays and operas are things of which it is impossible to forecast the success. They must be seen and heard, with all their stage conditions, before judgment can be passed. When a manager risks an unusually large sum on something that the public does not care to see he must not blame the critic who takes the same view as the public. All the puffery in the world would not bolster a dull piece. There are, however, classes of plays which attract, in one way or another, for the sinfulness that is in them. They are deliberately launched in the hope that they will invoke the condemnation of those who belong to what rakish Bobby Burns termed the "unco guid and rigidly righteous." They crave publicity, sure of success if that is granted, and when the showman is shifty and unscrupulous he will often succeed. But this success is a small matter. It has given the showman a stamp he must bear through his career, or one which it will require a great deal of active repentance to rub out. When the critic has done his duty by such showmen and their plays he may discover, to be sure, that there are very foul words in the showman's vocabulary of vituperation and several muscular rowdies among the showman's "gentlemen"; but these things are neither a help to a theatre nor a hurt to a journal.

The personal question, or that relating to criticizing actors, is one which is fraught with a great many difficulties if the critic for a moment consents to swerve from the position of being completely unbiased. Those players whose aim is to reach success by the surest methods do not busy themselves about asking critics for a "send off." They rely on the ripening of their art for a ripening of praise, and a kindly reminder of a failing overlooked is never bitterly unwelcome to such players. A class of actors which has been developing for some years past meets criticism with very different feelings. These worthies start in their profession with the modest idea that from Roscius to Garrick and thence to the present day no actor has ever attained the proper idea of stage comportment. They place their ideals so high that the critic, even with his opera glass, cannot reach them. Small wonder is it, then, that in a sound criticism these actors out sorry figures. If the actor were not so wholly separated from what he aims to be a hint or two might be useful; but they would be thrown away in any endeavor to join such a player to what he believes he is. Managers owe no favors to journals which should make them give free admissions to representatives of the latter. It is simply cowardice on the part of the theatres which perpetuate the system of free passes. The journal owes to the public a fair criticism of a play which it consents to notice. The manager who is content in his inmost soul with such a criticism is rarely possible. If the manager were allowed to write it himself it would be something different, something stronger, even if only a little. Independent criticism is that which leaves everything out of sight except the play as it is placed on the stage and which honestly judges that. This is the kind of criticism which it is the aim of the HERALD to supply for the benefit of the public, and not to please or displease actors or managers. The puerile, silly attempts of ignorant, rum-tinkering managers to coerce the press into such criticism can only recoil on themselves sooner or later.

Increase of the Public Debt.

The public debt statement shows an increase in the debt of \$8,453,272, and for the fiscal year so far, since the first of July, of some \$12,000,000. The late panic has caused a considerable reduction of the Treasury receipts, and the Virginia affair has resulted in a considerable increase of the national expenditures. In the general appropriations for the ensuing fiscal year there must be large reductions, or we must have increased taxes or an inflation of the currency. The country protests against increased taxation, dearly bought experience warns us against inflation, and so the only safe alternative is retrenchment. The original estimates of the Executive Department, in this view, have been cut down to the extent of some \$20,000,000; but this is not enough. A reduction of at least \$50,000,000 will be required to make both ends meet, and there is no good reason why this reduction should not be made. But as every member of Congress has his little job to look after in behalf of his constituents, there will, we fear, be no general reduction of the annual appropriations equal to the emergency—and what then? Why, then, we may look for inflation or taxation, or both. Inflation, we apprehend, is the entertainment to which we shall be invited; and once upon the smooth descending road of inflation it is a very difficult matter to stop the wagon short of the dismal swamp at the bottom of the hill.

Coal Combinations Against the Poor.

Oppressive laws are made to "protect" the products of several States—one of which is Pennsylvania; and the coal interests of that State count for a very considerable quantity in every lobby that labors to secure such laws. In order that the mine owners and workers of Pennsylvania—who also own and control the railways that run in connection with the mines—may pile up their millions a little more rapidly a tax is laid on an article of such paramount necessity that we cannot live without it; and having thus secured a monopoly as against the outside world, the mine owners form a combination which shall prevent competition as between themselves, and of this gigantic conspiracy the people are the victims. We are in the winter, and already arrived at that part of it when the weather becomes most severe, and we hear that coal must go up. Not yet recovered from a commercial crisis that has thrown hundreds of thousands out of employment, with an unusual distress among the poorer people, with no immediate prospect of better times in many a little circle where bread is scarce, we hear of coal combinations that will deprive the wretched of the solace of their little fire; and if we heard of any such new infliction upon the wretched inhabitants of some barbarous land in the middle of Siberia we would perhaps congratulate ourselves upon living in a civilized and Christian country. If the State of Pennsylvania cannot control her big monopolies—if her Legislature also is owned by combinations of capitalists who use the power they secure only to crush the people of other communities—it would be a good thing to open the eyes of the Keystone scoundrels by a sweeping repeal in Congress of all the laws made to protect the products of Pennsylvania.

The Ville du Havre Investigation—Acquittal of Captain Robertson.

A cable despatch from London informs us that yesterday the investigation into the Ville du Havre disaster was brought to a close, and that the court unanimously decided that Captain Robertson, of the Loch Earn, was blameless. An attempt was made to have the proceedings adjourned until the French witnesses could attend; but the court not approving, the application to that effect was withdrawn. In his examination Captain Robertson denied that the charges against Captain Surmont proceeded from him. He was incapable, he said, of taking away such a brave man's character. In the course of the investigation yesterday evidence was given by Mr. Waite, of New York, who was a passenger on the steamship, to the effect that the crew of the Loch Earn confounded the pilot of the Ville du Havre with Captain Surmont, and that this gave rise to the statement that the clothing of the latter was dry when he came on board the Loch Earn. Mr. Waite further testified that he was rescued by a French boat, and that the same boat afterwards rescued Captain Surmont, who was clinging to some wreckage. So far so well. It is pleasing enough to learn that the one captain was not to blame for the sad affair and that the other did his best when the disaster came. If Mr. Butt's theory is correct, that the misfortune was due to the tired condition of the watch on the French ship, it does not say much for the management of the line. Under proper management such a state of things should be impossible. The public have a right to complain, and they ought not to rest satisfied until such arrangements are made as shall prevent similar disasters in the future.

Custom House Irregularities.

The difficulties thrown in the way of the honest trader by the present unsatisfactory and uncertain mode of collecting duties deserve the serious attention of our legislators. It is well that the utmost severity should be shown to the unscrupulous class who seek to cheat the government by false entries, but the laws on the subject ought to be so corrected and simplified that importers would not be made to suffer by the stupidity or oversight of the customs authorities. Under the present system a merchant may honestly enter certain classes of goods, pay the duty demanded by the customs, and yet be liable at some future time to pay extra charges upon which he never calculated. This is carrying protection to the government a little too far, because it renders the mercantile community liable for the stupidity or ignorance of the agents of the Custom House. When a merchant honestly enters his goods, and a certain duty is demanded and paid, he probably disposes of such goods on the basis of the duty exacted and the original cost. It is therefore manifestly unfair on the part of the government to come upon him after a lapse of time, and demand additional duty when the goods are no longer in his possession. This is but one instance of the inconvenience to which importers are subjected under the present system. What is needed is a thorough reform, and, above all, the putting at the head of the appraising department men, not alone thoroughly acquainted with the values of goods, but also well informed in the laws regulating the imposition of duties. If the government fail to appoint capable men it ought to be responsible for the errors of its agents, the same as any private company, unless it can be clearly shown that fraudulent entries were made by the interested parties. All good citizens will approve of the utmost severity being shown to fraudulent traders, who, by cheating the revenue, rob the public. But we hold that better protection ought also to be extended to the honest trader than he receives under the present muddled system of collecting the revenue.

MORE JUDICIAL MURDERS THREATENED IN FRANCE.

Since the close of the war large numbers of convicted Communists have been shot; in larger numbers they have been deported to New Caledonia. The Communists were, no doubt, great offenders; but it is not to be denied that if they sinned they have suffered. The world is tired of hearing of the work of this special court martial. MacMahon behaved magnanimously towards Bazaine. It is time that some such magnanimity was displayed towards the sinners of the Commune. When the crime of which they were guilty is all but forgotten it is too late to punish. Yet one of our latest despatches from Paris informs us that six more unhappy Communists have been condemned to death. Two out of these six will in all likelihood suffer the extreme penalty. It rests

with President MacMahon to say whether the camp of Estory is to be stained with more of the blood of the Commune.

Financial Troubles in Havana.

Our bellicose friends of the Casino are in sore trouble from the difficulty of getting money. Only a few weeks ago they were very boastful of their wealth and unbounded resources, and even went so far as to allege that they could buy up the United States. To-day they find some difficulty in buying bread. They may be able to catch fish, but bread and meat must be paid for, and can neither be humbugged nor bullied into giving themselves up without a consideration. The result is that prices have gone up, meat has gone up, and even some of the terrible newspapers that were going to carry on war for a thousand years, more or less, against Uncle Sam, have gone up also. In fact, the whole system seems in a fair way to go up, and we shall not be much grieved if it "leave not a wreck behind." The junta of merchants who are trying to make worthless shillpennies pass for real dollars are not very successful, nor are they likely to be so. The paper inflation has been carried to such an extent that it has become altogether "too thin," and people will not exchange real values for promises to pay which are worth nothing. If the scarcity of food continues in Havana the volunteers may be forced into the field, and hunger may compel them to do what no amount of patriotic gas has as yet effected—to face the insurgents.

International Meteorology at Vienna.

One of the most important movements undertaken by the late Meteorological Congress at Vienna was that proposed by the Chief Signal Officer of the United States Army in behalf of a connected and synchronous system of international weather observations. It has long been held by eminent scientists that the cyclonic storms which cross the United States strike directly along the axial drift of the Gulf Stream and make their way to the British Isles; but the proposition of General Meyer, if carried out, as it doubtless will be, will not only finally decide this question, but furnish data for calculating the time and rate of their transit. The distance from our seaboard to Valencia is about 3,100 miles, and, while this may appear a long distance to be correctly predicted—for there are several things to be considered as favoring the feasibility of such prediction—on the smooth, liquid plain of the ocean these revolving meteors run with almost the regularity of speed of a railway train; no continental mass, no mountain, nor even an island opposing their progress or deflecting them from their fiery track. The average progressive velocity they attain is about twenty miles an hour, or 475 statute miles a day, in our latitudes, so that the trip across the Atlantic "canal" (as some geographers call it) is more rapid than that of a steamship. On the 4th of October, 1869, Professor Draper observed a low barometer at the Central Park, which passed away to the eastward at one P. M. Its mean velocity for two previous days had been carefully noted on land and found to reach nearly three hundred miles a day. This number, divided into the number of English miles between the American and English weather observatories, gave him the data for the inference that it would reach Falmouth on the 18th of the same month, which the official reports of the British Meteorological Office show was the day of its arrival, or at least, we should say, of the arrival of a severe gale. In numerous instances similar computations appear to have been similarly verified, although the marine observations over so wide an expanse of sea being wanting, it is impossible to say whether the arriving and the predicted storm were identical. Notwithstanding the lack of a complete transatlantic chain of observations, taken by vessels while sailing the course from New York to Liverpool, it is clear, after four years' tentative work, that Mr. Draper and other meteorologists have discovered that a connection exists between the meteorology of the two sides of the Atlantic. What that connection is, what the paths of the hurricanes which set out from our shores and finally spend their fury on the British islands, and what may be their rates of eastward advance, can only be determined by long observation.

It does not absolutely follow that the storm of October 4, 1869, ever entirely crossed the Atlantic, and, unless we had barometric readings from a line of vessels not more than two hundred leagues apart, stretching over the course from Sandy Hook to the vicinity of Cape Clear or Valencia, the nexus of proof would be incomplete. Evidently, in the paramount interests of commerce, navigation and science, this splendid and most practical investigation should be transferred from the field of computation (ably as it has been handled there) into that of precise marine observation.

This can easily and quickly be done by utilizing the willing service of the many able and sagacious masters of ships and steamships in the European and American trade and charting the combined data furnished by such seamen as they make port. With the information which could soon be extracted from such data the Weather Bureau would be able to give some indication as to whether the ship about to weigh anchor was in danger of storm or calm, and also when and where she would be most likely to be overtaken by the cyclone. The investment of money and labor necessary to make the most out of such a beautiful and beneficial investigation would be wise and safe, and we shall look for most important results from it.

OUR JANUARY THAW this time appears to have come with the new year. The warning of a rough and cruel winter which was given in the freezing spell of November appears to have been a false alarm; for we have seldom had a milder December, all through, than was the last. January, however, is the test of the winter; and we may yet have some arctic frosts before we get out of January, though we now hope we shall have, right on till the reopening of the Hudson, a much milder winter than that of a year ago.

THE MAYORALTY OF MATAMORAS.—General Cortina was installed in office as Mayor of Matamoros, Mexico, yesterday. The ceremonial passed off peaceably. Some of the more active of the opponents to Cortina's election